

BIG BLUE NEWS



ROCA BERRY/SCARY FARMS

HAYLEIGH SHUBERT

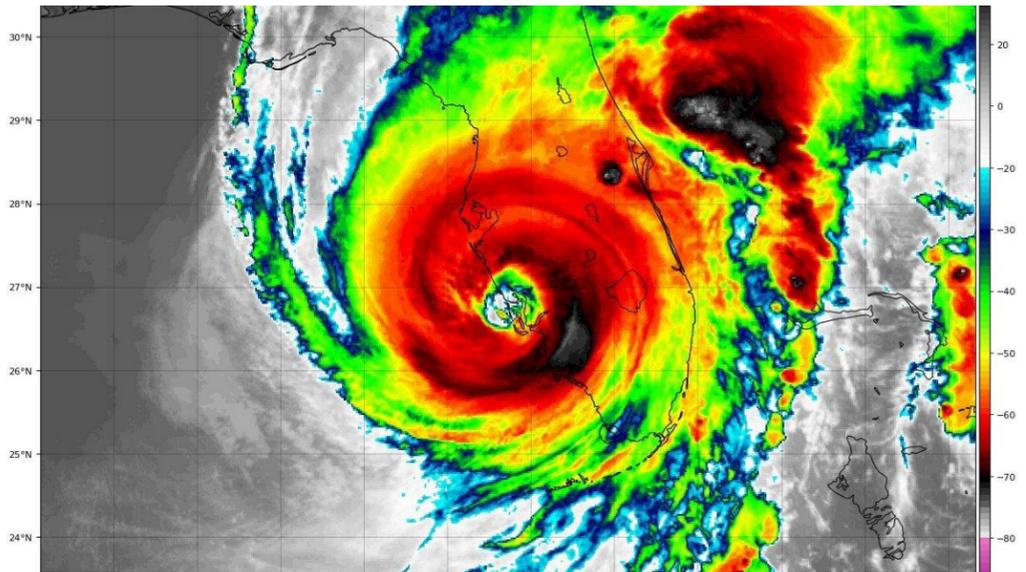
Roca Berry/Scary Farms is a berry farm and a haunted theme park located in a small town called Roca. Roca is a big attraction to many of the small towns around it such as; Bennet, Adams, Sterling, Wilbur, and many more. In this article I will talk about when the scary part of Roca is going to open, what all is at Roca, and what the haunted attractions are.

Roca's haunted attractions opened September 23rd and are open again on Saturday the 30th. You can buy the tickets online, or if you prefer, you can wait an hour in line to buy a ticket in person. Their tickets cost about \$27 and that gets you tickets to go to the haunted hayride, the haunted house, and the psycho path. The scary attractions are only open on Friday and Saturday nights and open at 5:00pm and close until the last guest leaves. Although, the box office closes at 9:30pm, so make sure you get your tickets before it closes.

As I said in the previously, there are three haunted attractions that you go through, such as, the haunted hayride, the haunted house, and the psycho path. These are the same attractions as last year, and they were very fun. There is also a giant jumping pillow, a chicken truck show, zombie paintball, monster mash, house of illusions, and a photo booth. Those are there daytime attractions that are open before the nighttime haunted attractions.

The three haunted attractions are the following. The haunted hayride is a 15 minute hayrack ride that goes through their haunted forest with an old western feel. The haunted house consists of rooms filled with dolls, a mad scientist's basement and spooky experiments, and the bedroom of the bedridden master. Finally, the psycho path is a 20 minute walk into the haunted woods. Walking on this path you will see many of the haunted guests making homes in the strangest places, there are villages that move with you as you go through, and the haunted mountains where you are forced to go down a tube that will take you to a different part of the haunted woods.

So if you want to get a good scare this Halloween season, make sure you go visit Roca Berry/Scary Farms. There are many thrilling attractions to attend and they also have scary good food.



THE DESTRUCTION OF HURRICANE IAN

OLIVIA GOULDIE

These past couple of weeks have been tragic for Florida and surrounding places. Hurricane Ian has struck a lot of places in Florida, videos showing damage and people showing their barn animals in the living room are filling the internet.

Before the storm started it was expected to be a category three hurricane, so people began hurricane-proofing their houses not expecting a lot. But when the hurricane hit it, it had turned into a category five now most places are under water and almost all houses are flooded if not above ground.

Military and rescue teams are being sent out to rescue families and pets from the water and rubble. People who had not evacuated were finding it difficult to survive because most bridges and roads in the destructive path of the hurricane have been destroyed.

So far, at least 120 deaths have been reported. Fortunately, most people heeded government warnings and escaped to safety. In this situation I think the best case for this is to evacuate and find new places to live. There's been lots of talk about how buildings, houses and businesses will take years to rebuild but it won't be same after such a tragedy. This is all parts of living in Florida.



SCHOOL NEWS

Staying Strong

Freeman Celebrates Strengths Day on Friday, Sept. 30th

REBECCA FORD

On Friday, September 29th, Freeman celebrated Strengths Day, a now multi-annual tradition wherein students have the opportunity to bond with their extended Falcon Family, participate in exciting strengths-based activities, and learn more about their own strengths.

During the first Strengths Day of the 2022-2023 school year, the day will begin with an early-out schedule, with Strengths Day beginning at 1:00 p.m. From 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., students will focus on their strengths in groups based on their grade level. For instance, juniors will be with juniors, seniors will be with seniors, and on. Grade-based activities will be conducted by teachers of that grade; the seniors will be with Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Kastanek, for example.

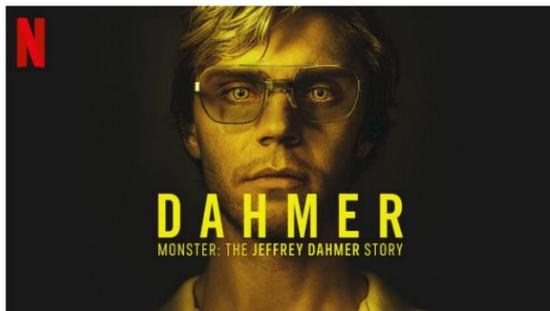
From 2:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. there will be a brief break for students to use the restroom and join their combined Falcon Families, and from 2:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. students will enjoy games and treat with their combined Families.

The time with combined Falcon Families will kick off with a Family greeting, wherein students introduce themselves by their name, grade, and their favorite Halloween candy. Ice cream bars will be offered at the concession stand, courtesy of the PTO. The time will continue with games based on those featured on the YouTube channel DudePerfect.



Games include the Oreo challenge, a game wherein students place an Oreo on their forehead and wiggle it down to their mouths without the use of their hands, a cup pyramid, a ping pong bounce challenge wherein students will be challenged to bounce a ping pong ball to the end of a boundary with one bounce the first round, two bounces the second round, and so on. In addition, a third game, the cotton ball scoop, will be played where students are blindfolded and attempt to gather as many cotton balls on a flat surface as possible. The last game is a torpedo balloon race wherein students compete to deflate their balloons the furthest.

The day wrapped up at 3:15 p.m. with elementary students sent back to their classes and secondary students sent to the 8th hour.



neighbor's experiences. If I had to give this series a rating, it would be an 11/10 in my opinion. Evan Peters did amazing. he was such a good fit for Jeff, up to his mannerisms and the way he walks and talks. The woman who played the neighbor did so well and you could feel the emotions through the screen. I thought the casting was super good. it was gory of course and showed everything, but that was needed to show the depth of Dahmer's crime.

TV SHOW REVIEW

DAHMER!!!

HAILEY FORD

The series Dahmer came out on Netflix September 21, 2022. This Jeffrey Dahmer Story is an American limited series for Netflix about the life of serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer. Created by Ryan Murphy and Ian Brennan, it stars Evan Peters as Jeffrey Dahmer, as well as Richard Jenkins, Molly Ringwald, Michael Learned, and Niecy Nash. The story

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

HARVEST OF HARMONY

OLIVIA GOULDIE



The Harvest of Harmony is a parade celebrating 80 years of Harvest of Harmony and 150 years of Grand Island. The parade originally started in 1938 and was held to promote the good vibes and happiness around the small towns. It has now become one of Nebraska's largest social events. This year Harvest of Harmony was hosted on October 1st, and was attended by Freeman Public Schools with over 200 other bands also attending.

Schools were judged by appearance, stepping, sound and many other things. The judging was divided by class A,B,C and that was where judging was done. Streets were lined with thousands of people coming to watch as all of the bands marched in front of judges. Floats were also in the parade along with people throwing candy on the sidelines to all the people.

This parade has been broadcasted live on local television stations but not actual live television due to copyright reasons, but the hosts of the parade are working to get it on national television.



of one of the most notorious serial killers in the United States show the depth of Dahmer's

Getting To Know Mrs. Renken

REBECCA PELLEGRINI

One of the teachers who has been with Freeman for a while is Mrs. Renken. I thought it would be great to get a better insight into this life-long educator – enjoy!

When did you realize you wanted to be a teacher?

I knew very early that I wanted to be a teacher. I really enjoyed my 2nd and 3rd grade teachers and by 4th grade, I knew that was the career path I wanted to follow. My Dad was a former history teacher and spent 30 years as a Superintendent. He also was a big influence on my career choice.

What did you study? What did you enjoy the most?

My Dad and I both like to travel and growing up we visited a number of historic sites. I loved hearing the stories of the past and the details my Dad provided made it very interesting to me. In college, I had a phenomenal American History teacher so that is what I decided to specialize in. I also have always enjoyed physical activity and sports so I also have a degree in physical education.

You have introduced the facing history class at the Freeman, what made you decide to teach this topic?

The Holocaust was not something that was taught when I was in high school or in college, but I had always had an interest in World War II. In 2002, I got a flyer in my mailbox at school for the Belfer National Conference for Educators that was being held at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. I had never been to Washington, D.C. and going to the Museum was on my list of places to visit so I applied and was accepted for the conference. That conference was life changing for me! I met my first Holocaust survivor and I learned more about the Holocaust and the important lessons that students could learn from studying this history. In the spring of 2004, I approached our principal, Dr. Michl, about implementing a semester long Holocaust course. Too often in social studies we are rushing through lessons and making sure we “cover” everything without ever delving into how and why events happen. Dr. Michl agreed and had me give a presentation to our school board about why we needed to implement a Holocaust class and they agreed to approve the Facing History course for the fall of 2004. In this course, students learn universal lessons about discrimination, the fragility of democracy and the choices each individual makes and how that impacts our greater world. I feel these lessons are important for all of us to become better humans.

For the facing history class you also organize the Washington Dc trip, tell me about it and also some fun things that happened.

The Washington, D.C. trip got started in 2010 when a friend of mine who taught at Lincoln Southwest High school asked if I wanted to bring some Freeman students on their trip. Three Freeman students joined me on the one-day trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and a walking tour of the monuments. The next year I started taking students on my own and the trip has grown with as many as 26 students traveling to Washington, D.C. In 2012, we expanded to a two-day trip in order to take in more of the sites in Washington, D.C. Each year, my Facing History students hear stories from the previous years, such as don't run from the Quick shop to McDonald's in Platte City, Missouri, the police will be called. Also, pay attention when getting on the subway so you don't get on the wrong train. I've had students put snow cones in stocking caps in their bags when they couldn't bring food on the subway and definitely don't set your bag down at the White House and walk away from it. Each year we make many fond memories and I'm really excited to be going back to Washington, D.C. with students this year and making more memories.

You are also the track and field coach, what do you think about the team and what are your goals for the season of this year?

This will be my 30th season of coaching track at Freeman. I started coaching junior high track and then became the girls head track coach in 1998 and continued coaching the junior high as well until 2012. Over the years, the girls' team has won many district titles, qualified many athletes for state, and have had 2 individual state champions. I am really looking forward to this year's track season! We only lost two Seniors so we will be returning a number of athletes and our big numbers will allow us to fill all of our events. Track is all about improving yourself and getting better and I'm excited to see what this group of girls will accomplish this year!

SCHOOL NEWS: WELCOME TO FALCON FAMILIES!

BARON ROGMAN



Welcome to Falcon Families. Falcon Families is just one of the fun things the people here at Freeman offer. You may be asking yourself, “What is this Falcon Families I'm hearing about?” Well, to all you curious people, Falcon Families is when you get into a “family” and do various activities. You either get one or two “parents” in your family. The “parents” are the plentiful teachers we have. When you get into the “family” you get to pick a name. Which is always the best part.

But the main idea of Falcon Families, to me anyway, is just to have people of various grades come together and get to know each other. Having the younger kids interact with the big kids. Just so everyone can come together, get to know each other, and possibly even make a few new friends. The activities that are done are like “family bonding” experiences. We changed what time we did them too. We used to do them at the beginning of the day. Now we do them at the end of the day. Every other Friday at 3:05-3:30.

Falcon Families overall is just a great idea, and a wonderful way to get the kids to know each other, get to know other people that aren't in their grade. I think it's a great experience and I always look forward to it. You should too! Now let's get out there and make some new friends! GO FALCONS!!

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SCHOOL NEWS:***Student Advisory Board – Making Things Better For All*****REBECCA FORD**

On October 10th, students Summer Buss, Rebecca Ford, and Reagan Miller had the opportunity to convene with Superintendent [Andrew Havelka](#) and discuss educational matters, ranging from school lunches to high school enrichment.

The students, serving as representatives for the senior and sophomore class, were invited to meet during lunch at the student lounge. The meeting began with a few broad questions concerning the students' involvement in school, extracurriculars, and their thoughts on extracurricular opportunities. The conversation led to discussions concerning the representatives' thoughts on whether they felt they had enough time to complete schoolwork during the school day in addition to their extracurriculars, and whether the students felt a study hall period was necessary. Students concurred that they felt they had enough time to do their work during the school day, but study halls may be necessary going forward, especially for students with loaded schedules.

Among other topics of discussion, the group also discussed the highlights of the year so far, which was generally agreed to be the Homecoming dance, although the briefness of it proved to be a fault, and it was discussed whether an additional, more casual dance should be held later in the year to make up for the lost time at Homecoming.

Students also brought up grievances, specifically concerning the lack of "enrichment activities" for high school students. The recent zoo presentation/experience and talent show, both of which are, nearly exclusively, for the elementary, served as examples of the high school's exclusion from such activities. Students expressed their frustration with the lack of change in the student body's schedule, and brought up the benefits of

activities and events such as assemblies, speakers, rallies, and other school-wide gatherings, citing bonding, school spirit, engagement, and a brighter outlook on school as reasons to instate more such "enrichment activities."

School lunches were another major talking point, specifically with the lack of options and small servings. In addition, students expressed an interest in off-campus lunch, specifically for seniors and perhaps juniors. Students also expressed an interest in supporting local businesses such as Suzy's Sweets & More through an off-campus lunch. As it is in many discussions of educational change, students expressed interest in home ec classes as well, specifically concerning culinary arts. It was agreed that it can be intimidating to learn cooking basics independently, and for students soon to live on their own, the class would be invaluable.

The advisory group was an excellent opportunity for open, clear, and direct communication between students and the superintendent, and students enjoyed the chance to express thoughts and feelings on behalf of the student body to clear the air. Although change can't always be imminent, the students are eager to see their thoughts be taken into consideration.

COLLEGE NEWS – EVANGEL UNIVERSITY**HAYLEIGH SHUBERT**

What is Evangel University? It is a private university located in Springfield, Missouri and is one of the four universities in Springfield Missouri. I am one of the lucky future students to go to Evangel because of softball recruitment. Today, I will discuss with you about the history of Evangel, what programs they offer, and what its community is like.

Evangel is the first Pentecostal liberal arts college chartered in America, and opened its doors on September 1, 1955. During World War II, the land Evangel stands on was a veterans hospital until the Army declared it excess property. The property was then acquired by the Assemblies of God in 1954 for the use of Evangel University.

Evangel offers over 70 academic programs and also has ministry training. The number one major at Evangel University is Elementary Education and Teaching. I would highly recommend going to Evangel if you want to be a teacher because when I went on a visit, they had a virtual classroom set up and you get a chance to teach the class for that day. The second major at Evangel is Biology/Biological Sciences.

On my visit to Evangel University the community there was very involving and energetic. The professors there are very friendly and positive there and they want to impact you in a positive way so that you make the change you want to see in the world. Everyone pushes each other to do the best they can while they're at Evangel.

So if you are looking for a positive and motivating place to go to school, then I highly suggest looking into Evangel University. Like I said before, there is a lot of history that lays there, that have tons of academic programs to enroll in, and their community is wonderful.

NATIONAL NEWS**No Longer a Gangster's Paradise****BARON ROGMAN**

Artis Leon Ivey Jr. known professionally as Coolio, was an American rapper. First rising to fame as a member of the gangsta rap group WC and the Maad Circle, Coolio achieved mainstream success as a solo artist in the mid-to-late 1990s with his albums *It Takes a Thief* (1994), *Gangsta's Paradise* (1995), and *My Soul* (1997).

Coolio was born August 1, 1963, in Monessen, Pennsylvania. He was raised mostly in Compton, California. His mother was a factory worker who divorced his carpenter father and moved to Compton when Coolio was eight years old. Severely asthmatic, Coolio was a regular visitor to his local library as a boy.

Coolio recorded his first single in 1987, titled "Whatcha Gonna Do?" He also recorded "What Makes You Dance (Force Groove)" with Nu-Skool in 1988. Coolio made connections in the L.A. rap scene, and in 1991, ended up joining the group WC and the Maad Circle, led by rapper WC. He is a credited co-contributor on the group's debut album *Ain't a Damn Thang Changed*, including on the single "Dress Code".

But like most cool things, they must come to an end. While at a friend's house in Los Angeles on September 28, 2022, He was pronounced dead by first responders. He was 59 years old at the time of his death. His manager said he died of cardiac arrest.



